



**2024 Annual General Meeting
Minor
June 2024**



**Hockey New Brunswick
Minor AGM 2024
June 8th, 2024
8:30am - Delta Fredericton**

1	Welcome – Call to order	Luc Martin
2	Credentials/Roll Call of Delegates	Nic Jansen
3	Additions & Approval of Agenda	Luc Martin
4	Minutes of 2023 AGM Minutes	Luc Martin
5	Business Arising from Minutes	Luc Martin
6	Minor Chair's Report	Luc Martin
7	Female Commission Representative Report	Tina Sewell
8	Elite Hockey Commission Representative Report	Denis Sheehan
9	District Director Reports (Written)	Directors
10	Executive Director's Report	Nic Jansen
11	UNB Sport Law Clinic	Kelly VanBuskirk
12	BREAK	
13	Notice of Amendment	Eric Pelletier
14	Hockey Canada Registry 3.0	Hockey Canada
15	U11 Provincials/U13 B- Non-Checking	Luc Martin
16	Minor Chair Election	Nic Jansen
17	Outgoing Minor Council Members	Luc Martin
18	Adjournment/Luncheon	

**New Brunswick Minor Hockey Council
Annual General Meeting
June 10th, 2023
Moncton, NB – Delta Beausejour**

Present: Luc Martin, Mark Wright, Kim Sparkes, Hazel Wells, Jodie Driscoll, Lee MacWilliams, Kris Dupuis, Ian Donald, Francine Albert, Éric Pelletier, Lori Williams, Denis Sheehan, Jacques Desjardins, Michelle Desjardins, Eric Michaud, Daniel Huard, Darren McLaughlin, Troy McQuade, Ben MacFarlane, John O'Toole, Gillian Yeomans, Mathew Richardson, Kim Penney, Curtis Rossignol, Jennifer Hurley, Vanessa Morehouse, Denise Paisley, Mark Marshall, Scott Nelson, Mike Conley, Todd Lively, Sean McSorley, Terry Soucy, Kathy Higgins, Jennifer Estey, Kevin Carrier, Serge Bourgeois, Katrina Maclean, Alex Armsworthy, Ghislain Noel, Dan Boudreau, Josh Martin, Allydia Tingley, Andre Bornais, Dave Saldanha, Matt Estabrooks, Ryan Doncaster, Christopher Dunn, Jon Penwarden, Patrick Leger, Dale Melanson, Denis Ouellette, Pierre Morais, Marc Lavigne, Mathieu Haché, Kristine McLaughlin, Kelly DeLucry, Tabatha Ryan, Roger Gaudet, David Melanson, Eric Brun, Mark Boutilier, Amanda Graham, Louis Gaudet, Tim White, Denis Maillet

Observers: Bev Jacobson, Neil Jacobson, Tom Donovan, Maurice Theriault, Heather Strickland, Dawn Shaw, Katie Peddle, Nic Jansen, Michelle Currie, Rob Newson, Todd Pye, Kelly VanBuskirk, Richard Hawkes, Todd Williams, Jeff McLeod, Jennifer Tower

1-Welcome- Luc Martin opened the meeting at 8:36am. He presented the agenda and welcomed everyone. There were 65 voting delegates registered.

2- Credentials Committee Report

The credentials committee report was presented by Nic Jansen. He proceeded to list the District Associations and Community Club (and Leagues) and the number of voting delegates. Roll call for Credential Delegates: 65 voting delegates, or 33 votes to carry.

District Associations and Community Clubs

Association	#	Association	#	Association	#
Edmundston	1	Elite Hockey	2	Petitcodiac-Salisbury	1
Haut Madawaska	0	Grand Lake	2	Sussex	1
District 11 Director	1	Moncton	2	Riverview	2
Grand Falls	2	Hampton	1	Sackville	2
York North	2	Kennebecasis Valley	2	Kent Center	0
Restigouche North	2	Charlotte County	0	Kent-Sud	2
York West	1	Female Rep on Minor	1	West Kent Female	1
Victoria-Tobique	0	St. Stephen	1	Restigouche Ouest	1
Fredericton	2	Dieppe/Memramcook	2	Miramichi	0
Oromocto	2	Grand Manan	0	Greater Miramichi Female	0
Lewisville	2	Hillsborough	1	Baie des Chaleurs	0
District Director 2	1	District Director 3	1	Bathurst	0
District Director 6	1	District Director 7	1	Péninsule Acadienne	1
District Director 9	1	District Director 10	1	District Director 1	1
Rogersville	0	Minor Chair	1	District Director 5	1
Carleton Minor	2	Lancaster Minor	1	District Director 8	1
Woodstock	0	Boiestown/Doaktown	0	Shediac Cap Pele	0
Res-Ma-Vic	0	Western Valley Female	0	Central Female	0
South East Female	2	Fundy Female	2		

Leagues

League	#	League	#	League	#
NB Female AAA	1	Southern NB League	2	District 3 League	1
Central U18 League	2	South East NB Rec.	1	Central U15 League	1
District 2 League	1	Central U11 League	1		

3- Motion to approve the 2023 Agenda.

Moved Jodie Driscoll, Seconded Hazel Wells.

Motion Carried

-Additions to the 2023 Minor Agenda

Eric Pelletier requested to add/submit the Central Midget Leagues report.

4- Minutes of 2022 AGM.

Motion to approve the NBMHC 2022 annual meeting minutes – Moved Eric Pelletier, Seconded Mark Wright

Motion Carried

5- Business arising from 2022 minutes.

There was no business arising from minutes.

6- Minor Chair – Luc Martin’s report

Report as submitted.

7- Female Commission Representative- Lori Williams

Report as submitted.

8- Elite Hockey Commission: Denis Sheehan

Report as submitted.

9- District Director Reports:

Mark Wright- District 1: As submitted.

Kim Sparkes- District 2: As submitted.

Hazel Wells- District 3: As submitted.

Jodie Driscoll- District 5: As submitted.

Lee MacWilliams- District 6: As submitted.

Kris Dupuis- District 7: As submitted.

Ian Donald - District 8: As submitted.

Francine Albert- District 9: As submitted.

Éric Pelletier- District 10 & 11: As submitted.

Éric Pelletier is also a liaison with Central Midget and submitted Tim White’s report on his behalf.

10- UNB Law – Investigations support – Kelly VanBuskirk

Nic gave a summary of the suspensions that HNB has dealt with this past season and introduced Kelly VanBuskirk who presented to the group virtually. Kelly touched on the following:

- UNB Faculty of Law is undertaking a new sports law course that will be offered this coming year. Students that register will learn the sport rules /law. They will benefit from real-life dispute resolution experiences. They will be trained in doing proper investigation processes for complaints. A few complaints were reviewed by law students this past season and overall, the feedback we received was positive. There were a couple associations that didn’t want to participate but associations should be more open minded to these investigations.
- HNB will benefit from access to a resource pool of trained and motivated law student investigators.
- Capacity – Approximately 60-70 investigation – each student will be able to do approximately 5 investigations in a Hockey season.
- Timeline – 60 days or less to get the results of an investigation.
- The students will be using Teams/Zoom calls to do virtual interviews to conduct their investigations.

11- Executive Director - HNB: Nic Jansen

Report As submitted. Nic presented a summary of his report highlighting the main points from this past season.

12- Hockey Canada Updates – Rob Newson

Rob gave a summary of his presentation. He reviewed Hockey Canada’s Action Plan and Strategic Plan.

- Hockey Canada’s 2023-2024 Priorities were reviewed – (Sport Safety- Maltreatment, Women & Girls, Growth & Retention and Development).
- Rob also reviewed the Hockey Canada Assist Fund and the new payment process.

13- Notices of Amendment:

Eric Pelletier was tasked to read out the NOA’s and associations voted for or against the motion. 65 voting delegates and 33 votes were needed to carry.

Notice of Amendment

Block Sections 3.4 (b), 3.5, 6.2 (a), 6.2 (e), 8, 11, 12.1 (d), 12.3 (d), 12.3 (n), 12 (d), 13.6, 14.2, 14.3, 15.12, 17.2 (a), 19.6, 20 (b), 26.1, 27.1, 27.2.

Motion to Block the above NOA's

Moved Denis Sheehan, Seconded Lee MacWilliams

Motion Carried

Motion to Approve the Block of the above NOA's

Moved Ian Donald, Seconded Mark Wright

Motion Carried

Vote on as Stand-Alone Amendment

15.6: Moved to amend by Eric Pelletier / Seconded by Hazel Wells

Proposed wording:

Re-categorization of club teams must be done by **7 days prior to Semi Annual** by the District Director for ratification by the NBMHC Executive Committee at their semi-annual meeting. It would be the responsibility of each association/club to advise the appropriate District Director of possible changes to consider, prior to the semi-annual meeting.

Motion Carried

15.11 (e to g) : Moved to amend by Luc Martin / Seconded by Eric Pelletier

Proposed Wording

e. Minor Hockey Associations will have the option to tier teams in the U9 division.

Level 1 – Developmental : The developmental level will be for players who are new to the game or players who need further development on the basic skills of the game (skating, shooting, passing, and puck control).

Level 2 – Intermedidate : The intermediate level is for players who possess many of the basic skills, however, can still improve and refine those skills to actively participate in a more competitive environment. This will allow them to continue to develop those skills in an environment that will build confidence and success.

- Associations that will be tiering at the U9 level must allow players 4 skates prior to evaluations and must allow players 3 evaluation sessions. No evaluations shall take place during the first week of school or during the off-season as per the Hockey Canada U9 Player pathway.
- Associations that are tiering will be required to have 50% of their teams in each level. At both levels teams can consist of players of who are 7 & 8 years of age. The main goal is to have players playing with other players of like skill to ensure players are having fun every time they are on the ice.
- Seasonal structure:
 - o Half ice games permitted as of November 1st
 - o Teams can transition to full ice games as of January 15th
 - o Max of 40 games permitted (includes jamborees)

Rules for U9 half-ice and full-ice games are posted on the Hockey New Brunswick website.

Motion Carried

15.14 Moved to amend by Lori Williams / Seconded by Luc Martin

Proposed Wording - New

Travel teams may be permitted by the Female Commission on a case by case basis where circumstances warrant. Travel teams include all teams which are formed within co-ed associations and are not formed within existing female associations.

Considerations may include but are not limited to location/geography of the players, travel distances and ice restrictions.

Teams should expect to operate under restrictions deemed appropriate by the Female Commission, such as limited number of games or tournaments.

Teams may be granted permission to attend provincials provided a predetermined number of games versus other female teams in the province have been played.

Motion Carried

17.3 a.: Moved to amend by Eric Pelletier / Seconded by Hazel Wells

Proposed Wording:

The upward player movement shall be available for second year players beginning in U9 **including exceptional players with the movement to Competitive C or above with approval of District Director**. Players in their second year of a division are eligible to be evaluated for player movement to the highest category team in the next division of that Association or club. Note: For player movement related to AAA, please refer to the EHC Exceptional Player Status Guidelines

Motion Carried

17.6 : Motion moved by Jodie Driscoll / Seconded by Luc Martin

Proposed Wording:

17.6 a.: **Starting in U11**, players whose home club that do not offer competitive hockey within a division and are wishing to play competitive hockey are permitted to go to a neighboring club offering competitive hockey within a district. If no competitive program is offered in the district, the player would be allowed to go to the closest neighboring District to their residence. If development hockey is not offered within their District, those players are able to go to the closest neighboring district to their residence. Players not making a competitive team must go back to their home club to play 'C' hockey. These players have affiliation privileges to that competitive/development team as long as they tried out. The same shall apply to clubs that offer competitive hockey only and have players wishing to play 'C' hockey. A player cannot use this regulation to play in a different category (i.e. AA, A, and B). 6.8.13

17.6 b.: **For Female players whose home club does not offer an all-female team, they are permitted to go to a neighboring club offering an all-female team within a district. If no all-female teams are offered in the district, the player would be allowed to go to the closest neighboring District to their residence**

Motion Carried

18.1 d. : Moved to amend by Luc Martin / Seconded by Eric Pelletier

Proposed wording - New

District Directors will have the authority to approve player releases to a neighbouring association based on geography or compassion.

Motion Carried

19 : Moved to amend by Luc Martin / Seconded by Eric Pelletier

Proposed wording:

Affiliation privileges shall be applicable for all divisions of ~~U44~~ **U9** and above.

Motion Carried

21.1. a. : Moved to amend by Jodie Driscoll / Seconded by Luc Martin

Proposed wording:

For all games not in their league schedule, all travelling teams in Minor hockey must acquire an e-travel permit; or for a home team hosting a game not in their league schedule, must acquire a game sanction approval certificate from their NBMHC Association, league President, District Director or designate. Copies of such requests must be filed with their NBMHC District Director no less than ~~two~~ **seven** business days prior to the game.

Motion defeated

22.9: Moved to amend by Jodie Driscoll / Seconded by Luc Martin

Proposed wording:

U7 Program and U9 players are only permitted to participate in Jamborees, **a maximum of 5 jamborees will be permitted providing the number of games played does not exceed 40.**

Motion Carried

22.9: Moved to amend by Luc Martin / Seconded by Eric Pelletier

Proposed wording:

U7 Program and U9 players are only permitted to participate in Jamborees. On school days, U7 / U9 games jamborees cannot start games prior to 3:00 p.m.

Motion Defeated

26: Moved to amend by Luc Martin / Seconded by Eric Pelletier

Proposed wording:

At all times during a game, warm-up or practice, all players including goalkeepers must wear the following protective equipment: A CSA approved hockey helmet, CSA approved full face mask and a BNQ Throat Protector must be worn by all players and goalkeepers. ~~All goalkeepers must wear a throat protector that is attached to the face mask.~~

Motion Defeated

27.6: Moved to amend by Luc Martin / Seconded by Eric Pelletier

Proposed wording:

DELETE

Motion Carried

Luc thanked Jodie Driscoll (District 5 Director) who is the only outgoing member for her hard work and dedication throughout the last few years and presented her with a plaque and gift.

Motion to adjourn: Eric Pelletier at 11:32am

MINOR HOCKEY PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Luc Martin

Minor Hockey, Female Hockey and Hockey Development continue to join forces and work together to develop and improve our programming. At this point, we still have a lot of work and communication to do to improve collaboration between the 3 partners: Minor Hockey, Female Hockey, and Hockey Development.

The Minor Council continues to support community associations and clubs in achieving its goal of requiring completed training for their parent and volunteer members. However, there are some regions and associations that require more help to become compliant. This season were a little better on the personal side of the bench where coaches had all the qualifications required to be behind the bench. However, on the Respect in Sport Parent side, too many parents still haven't completed the required training by the deadline. This is creating a lot of work for the district director, and it should be the responsibility of the associations and community clubs to follow-up with parents who are not complying with the rules.

I attended more than 53 meetings this season for various purposes. With the Minor Council, we met regularly for the advancement of our sport. HNB and the Minor Council have had some zoom meetings with all the community clubs and associations in the province. I think this is a very good initiative on the part of HNB, a lot of good and important information is given at these meetings. However, not all associations and community clubs participate, which is a bit disappointing. With the number of volunteers in community clubs and minor hockey associations, it's hard to understand why some community clubs and associations can't encourage a few volunteers to represent them at these meetings.

PROVINCIALS

The provincial championships were held over one weekend this season, from March 22 to 24, due to the Easter weekend. With the exception of the U18 AA, A and B divisions of the Central League, which took place on the weekend of April 4-7.

This season, the Minor Council decided to run a pilot project in the U13 C division, allowing 16 teams instead of 8 to participate in the provincial tournament. Instead of having two (2) teams per zone, the zones were able to send four (4) teams per zone.

However, the minor's council should consider discussing certain points, as some areas in the province are having difficulty finding associations or community clubs to host a provincial tournament and even finding a team to take part.

I'd like to thank the hosts for organizing and coordinating these provincial tournaments and congratulate the champion teams.

Host Association

U13 C Grand Falls
U13 B Woodstock
U13 A York North
U13 AA Oromocto

U15 C Grand Lake
U15 B Lewisville
U15 A Petitcodiac-Salisbury
U15 AA Riverview

Winning Team

Restigouche-Ouest Coyotes
Grand Falls Jr. Cats
Edmundston Jr. Blizzard
SEFHA Fury

Restigouche-Ouest Coyotes
Grand Falls Jr. Cats
Edmundston Jr. Blizzard
Riverview Blues

U18 C Restigouche-Nord
U18 B Edmundston
U18 A Edmundston
U18 AA Edmundston

Dieppe-Memramcook Eagles
Kent Centre Bears
Edmundston Jr. Blizzard
Petitcodiac-Salisbury Flyers

FEMALE:

U11 A Greater Miramichi Female
U11 AA Central Female Hockey Association
U13 A Western Valley Female
U13 AA West Kent Female
U15 A Fundy Female
U15 AA West Kent Female
U18 A Dieppe

SEFHA Fury
Fundy Female Kraken
ResMaVic
West Kent Phoenix
Sackville Sirens
SEFHA Fury
Dieppe/Memramcook
Goguen Panthers

The tournaments took place over a weekend, due to the Easter weekend. I was limited to my presence in different places. I had planned to go to Woodstock, Dalhousie and Grand Falls. Due to road and weather conditions, during the weekend of the provincial championships I only attended several games that were held in Grand Falls for the U13 C tournament, which was a pilot project. I met several people from different parts of the province and the people I spoke with were very enthusiastic about the Minor Council's decision to carry out this pilot project to give several youngsters the chance to take part in a provincial tournament.

On the weekend of April 4-6, I attended several games at the Central U18 League's U18 AA, A and B tournament. During this tournament, there were several games of very good quality. On Friday evening I took part in the league banquet where several trophies were awarded to the most deserving players. I'd like to thank the Central League executive for their excellent organization and congratulate all the young players on their individual awards. Most importantly, I'd like to thank all the volunteers and organizers at the various locations. Without your dedication, there would be no provincial tournament in our province.

SUSPENSION/DISCIPLINE

With the number of suspensions increasing year after year, and the video appeal, the minor council decided to form a discipline committee within the minor council. Over the course of the season, the Discipline Committee met more than 30 times to discuss certain situations that arose during the past season. Suspensions were reduced, increased and added. It was a very good decision by the Minor Council to create the Disciplinary Committee within the Minor Council.

This season we received a total of **519** suspensions, **438 players and 81 coaches, an increase of 57 more suspensions, 45 players and 12 coaches, compared to last season.** The number of suspensions is really not acceptable, and associations and community clubs should be more careful when selecting their coaches and following up with their teams.

This season, in February, I went to meet a team with the league president and the person in charge of discipline, because this team had exceeded its suspension limit. The message was very clear to this team that they had to play hockey or HNB would no longer accept their disgraceful gestures and nonsense on the ice. At the time, the team was fighting for a playoff spot. After our meeting, 2 players left the team and the team won, finishing 1st in their division and going on to the provincial tournament to win the provincial banner in their division. From the time we met until the end of the season, this team didn't receive a single suspension. The coach put a lot of time and patience into his youngsters, with the support of his association, and the results were positive.

	Player	Coach	Total	U18 C	Coach
District # 1	12	2	14	5	0
District # 2	9	4	13	n/a	n/a
District # 3	98	10	108	41	1
District # 5	102	20	122	44	1
District # 6	112	17	129	53	4
District # 7	38	11	49	3	0
District # 8	26	10	36	10	3
District # 9	20	5	25	15	2
District # 10	14	1	15	4	0
District # 11	7	1	8	4	0
TOTAL	438	81	519	179	11

SUSPENSION BY DIVISION

	2022-2023			2023-2024		
	Player	Coach	Total	Player	Coach	Total
M9 C	0	0	0	0	1	1
	2022-2023			2023-2024		
	Player	Coach	Total	Player	Coach	Total
U11 C	1	0	1	5	3	8
U11 B	2	0	2	0	2	2
U11 A	5	5	10	4	5	9
U11 AA	6	2	8	5	2	7
TOTAL	14	7	21	14	12	26
	2022-2023			2023-2024		
	Player	Coach	Total	Player	Coach	Total
U13 C	22	12	34	20	11	31
U13 B	0	1	1	0	0	0
U13 A	13	2	15	11	3	14
U13 AA	7	1	8	10	10	20
Total	42	16	58	41	24	65

	2022-2023			2023-2024		
	Player	Coach	Total	Player	Coach	Total
U15 C	53	10	57	46	12	63
U15 B	0	0	0	1	0	0
U15 A	39	4	34	45	10	43
U15						
AA	17	3	13	27	2	20
Total	109	17	126	119	24	143

	2022-2023			2023-2024		
	Player	Coach	Total	Player	Coach	Total
U18 C	163	21	184	168	11	184
U18 B	2	0	2	0	0	2
U18 A	38	5	43	69	5	43
U18 AA	23	2	25	27	4	25
Total	226	28	254	264	20	284

Suspensions Report

Section 4.8	Game Misconduct	215 suspensions
Section 4.9	Gross Misconduct	21 suspensions
Section 7.1	Attempt to Injure	23 suspensions
Section 7.2	Boarding	26 suspensions
Section 7.3	Body Checking	34 suspensions
Section 7.4	Charging	7 suspensions
Section 7.5	Checking from Behind	37 suspensions
Section 7.6	Head Contact	54 suspensions
Section 7.8	Kneeing	10 suspensions
Section 7.10	Fighting	58 suspensions
Section 7.11	Instigator or Aggressor of a Fight	9 suspensions
Section 10.8	Refusing to Start Play	3 suspensions
Section 11.1	Unsportsmanlike Conduct	62 suspensions
Section 11.2	Abusive Behavior	110 suspensions
Section 11.4	Discrimination	14 suspensions
Section 11.5	Physical Harassment of Officials	11 suspensions
Other		53 suspensions

REGISTRATION:

Once again this season, we had an increase of **161** players in men's hockey and **276** players in female hockey. This is a very good sign that hockey is doing well in our province.

REGISTRATION REPORT

Season	DISTRICT	MALE	FEMALE	Not disclosed	COACH	BENCH
2022-23	1	493	81		94	101
2023-24		539	74		120	125
2022-23	2	391	35		38	25
2023-24		359	101	4	100	69
2022-23	3	1920	423		443	223
2023-24		1995	505	14	467	265
2022-23	5	1946	426		416	242
2023-24		2031	480	3	476	364
2022-23	6	2249	502		654	260
2023-24		2305	560	55	703	328
2022-23	7	873	222		210	86
2023-24		792	222	115	262	105
2022-23	8	504	177		125	18
2023-24		477	174	9	112	23
2022-23	9	526	93		128	91
2023-24		540	102		136	125
2022-23	10	306	46		69	22
2023-24		309	50	1	79	36
2022-23	11	219	51		54	22
2023-24		241	64		59	66
2022-23	Elite Hockey	577	163		123	50
2023-24		599	127		179	61

Totals 2022-2023	
Male Minor	9,427
Female Minor	2,056
NBIAA	1,270
Elite Hockey	740
Other	236
Junior	340
Senior	526
Officials	1,008
Coach/Bench	3,970
Total Membership	19,573

Totals 2023-2024	
Male Minor	9,588
Female Minor	2,332
NBIAA	1,266
Elite Hockey	726
Other	35
Junior	410
Senior	557
Officials	1,226
Coach/Bench	4,619
Total Membership	20,759

COMMENTS:

I'm repeating myself again this year, as stated in my report of previous years, there are still far too many inappropriate behaviors by adults and incidents of conflict that never seem to go away. The incidents involve not only parents or grandparents, but also coaches and off-ice players. The police have had to be involved on a number of occasions for incidents this season. We're finding more and more incidents on social media. One incident is one too many.

People believe that playing hockey is a right, not a privilege. This must continue to be a national priority. As a result, HNB has taken several steps to change behavior. We introduced the Parent Code policy to HNB participants, and HNB instituted mandatory "Respect in Sport" training for parents. As mentioned above, the Minor Council set up a Discipline Committee to review certain incidents that occurred over the past season.

The Minor Council takes player and coach suspensions very seriously. Some players and coaches have received one-year suspensions for their behavior or major infractions. We have set a minimum number of suspensions a team can receive during the year, and action will be taken against offending teams.

However, a big responsibility falls to associations and community clubs when it comes to choosing their coaches. They need to make sure they get the right people with the right attitude to teach their young players. They should also follow up with their teams. On a more positive note, this season District # 1 carried out a pilot project with Hockey Québec and played exhibition games this past season. Steps have been taken to continue working with Hockey Québec next season.

CONCLUSION:

This is my sixth (6) year as President of HNB Minor Hockey, I still have the passion to continue for another term if elected. Me and my minor council will always continue to work together to improve minor hockey in the province and ensure that all young people have a safe place to play hockey. I'd like to thank the staff at the HNB office for their availability and commitment to NB minor hockey.

Special thanks to Nic Jansen and Michelle Currie, Nic is very dedicated and always available when we need him. He is a very important part of the HNB Minor Council. Michelle is always available to help with the minor council and responds to many calls during the hockey season. She is much appreciated by the Francophone associations in NB.

In closing, I'd like to thank my HNB minor council for the support they've given me and for their excellent work in their region, my discipline committee and all the volunteers involved in their association, for the good development of hockey in New Brunswick

Thank you and have a great summer. Hope to see you again this fall.

Luc Martin
HNB Minor Chair

FEMALE COMMISSION REPORT – Tina Sewell

The provincial league has operated successfully again this year with 47 teams participating in U11-U18 divisions. Travel teams across the province provided the opportunity for girls to enjoy the female game. For the upcoming season, a provincial league constitution will be key to the cadence of running the league.

Overall female membership across the province increased by 9% or 203 player's year over year. This is directly correlated to the great work and many hours that our dedicated volunteers put into growing the female game.

Congratulations to our Provincial Winners!

- U11 A: SEFHA Stars (Nelson)
- U11AA: Fundy Female Kraken
- U13A: Resmavic
- U13AA: West Kent Phoenix
- U15A Sackville Sirens
- U15AA: SEFHA Fury
- U18A SEFHA / Dieppe Memramcook Panthères Goguen
- U11A – SEFHA

AAA ID camps for U13 and U15 are currently underway. The Elite Female Committee will be meeting in mid-June once the ID Camps have been held around the province to discuss the results and make a recommendation to the Female Commission regarding the number/location of teams. It is hoped that interest will be sufficient to ice targeted teams.

The Female Commission has recently voted to limit association of NBIAA players to the AA level for the upcoming season

Lori Williams
HNB Female Commissioner

Initiative	Action Plan	Challenges	Owner
Organizational stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe Sport education provided to AAA players, coaches and parents. - Commission vs Council – study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting everyone to attend - Education to Female Commission members is required for consideration and potential. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nic - Lori
Grow the game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with Female Associations to address ice inequities. - Travel teams. - First Shift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvements made for ice inequities, however, still challenges with historical ice allocation policies in some municipalities. - Need to clarify rules regarding travel teams attending tournaments and whether they should be eligible for Provincials. Also, need to determine when travel teams beneficial. - Keeping players enrolled after participating in First Shift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female Commission - Female Commission - Katie
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee formed to review structure and governance of AAA programs. - Female Skills Camps at start of season and March Break 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting agreement from all parties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jason - Katie
Consistent programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female Minor Ops - Female AAA Operations Manual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An appendix was completed. - Educating all stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Katie - Katie / Jason
Event success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hosting Atlantic's - Re-structuring of Female HPP to include U14 and change date of U18 - WGHW / EFD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding - None - None – per capita lead the country in the hosting of Esso Fun Days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Katie - Katie - Female Commission

ELITE HOCKEY REPORT – Denis Sheehan

General Updates: Overall season has been good. Declared Champions in all divisions. Issues remain with ice allocation and complaints regarding fair play and equal ice time for players. Team selection and the 'interest' in winning affects most programs instead of focusing on development. HNB Elite AAA teams were successful at Atlantic Champions. Winning Gold were U13 East Beavers and U13 East Female Fury. Silver medalists included U15 East Hawks while taking home bronze were U15 East Female Rockets and U18 West Female Flames.

Initiative	Update on action Plan	Challenges	Owner
Evaluate 'Elite Hockey' (Goals & Structure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -development committees have completed task (mixed & female) - board approved recommendations - to be implemented in the coming 2024-25 season - Awarded U15 AAA Major franchises in all zones (6 teams for 2024-25 season) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -timelines -Resistance to change by members Education & implementation once complete hockey population may not warrant teams at specific levels with proper skill levels. -less teams may create extensive travel for younger players -zones unwilling to let go of current programs/territories for players -resistance to change/loss of program 	Louis Gaudet All EDZA Presidents Nic, Brogan HNB Board
Team Selection Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -develop standardized process -procure tools for automation and tracking -Identify neutral evaluators -look at other 'Best Practices' *Work in progress* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -some areas, coaches unwilling to use independent evaluators -some areas, coaches not willing to use automation -other jurisdictions not willing to share 	Louis Gaudet All EDZA Presidents Brogan Bailey
GOLD Medal Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -process underway with Hockey Canada -ensure teams participating are active 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -some teams still not participating -unwillingness of some staffs to engage 	Brogan Bailey
AAA Provincials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Very successful event once again - was held in Moncton April 4-7 - over 1200 spectators at U15 Major Final 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -site that can accommodate all teams -Conflicting dates due to other events being hosted in viable facilities -ranking teams 	Louis Nic/Brogan HNB Office staff
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Excellent feedback from participating teams. -completed 3 sessions with Safe Sport w/Allison Forsyth -Coaches/admin / players / parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Scheduling conflicts -Time constraints -non-participation 	Nic / Brogan

DISTRICT 1 REPORT – Mark Wright

Here is my report for the 2023-2024 season. District 1 is represented by 4 active community clubs. To make a comparison with last year, the associations have seen an increase in their registrations, which is good, and the U7 and U9 levels have seen a big increase, which looks good for next year. As for referees, the number remained more or less the same.

At the beginning of the season, I met each association to establish the district's objectives for each one, and I also took part in a meeting with the managers of 2 of the 4 associations, and next year I expect to meet each one to make sure that all the associations have the same messages.

During the season, we had a total of 8 meetings with a good number of participants, and a lot of effort was put in again this year by the associations to ensure that all their volunteers had the necessary courses to be compliant before the deadline. A slight improvement on last year, but by 2024 we had set ourselves the target of reaching 100% before the deadline.

Towards the end of the season, we received several complaints about Fair Play. We need to address this at the start of the 2024-2025 season. We need to work with our associations and coaches to ensure that fair play is respected. It's a good challenge because the coaches' level of competitiveness is very present.

In the provincial championships, District 1 put in an excellent display, winning 8 out of 9 championship banners - 3 in U13, 3 in U15 and 1 in U18 - and 1 more in the female division. WOW WOW congratulations to you all.

My objectives for next year are to take the U7 and U9 and impose stricter consequences to ensure that the rules are followed throughout the district. Marc-André Voisine will see to it that a meeting is held at the beginning of the year. I'll also make sure that the associations classify.

In closing, I'd like to thank the members of the district executive (Marc-André, Marc and Maggie), the association presidents (Éric, Yves and Philippe, Pascal, Serge), ROC Jacques Poitras, referee-in-chief Jacques Lebel, EDZA Éric Lebel, Female Hockey Chad St-Onge, the president of the minor council Luc Martin and all the volunteers for their involvement and all the efforts made to ensure the smooth running of hockey in our region.

Mark Wright
Director of District 1

DISTRICT 2 REPORT – Kim Sparkes

Another season has gone by. Thanks to the presidents (Jeff - WMHA, Cathy - VTMHA, Tim - CMHA) for a successful year.

A thanks also to Amanda the league secretary/treasurer.

I would like to say thank you to my VP Amy McIntosh, who has decided to step away. It was great working with you.

After many seasons of volunteering VTMHA president Keith Shirley decided to step away from the role. A huge thanks to you for all of your dedication and hard work over the years.

This year district 2 numbers for male players was down while female increased by 35% (35 in 2022-23 to 101 in 2023-24) Coaches and bench staff saw an increase also.

WVFA was able to put together a U13A travel team that participated with games against other female teams in the province. They also hosted the provincials for this division and came in third place. A U9 team was formed that attended the Moncton Meltdown. The girls had a fantastic time.

Woodstock hosted the U13B provincials for the 2023-24 season. Thanks to the committee for a smooth running tournament.

U9 tiering was introduced in the district this season and had a few hiccups. Will revisit this fall and decide what route to take for the development of all players in the district.

Kim Sparkes
District 2 Director

DISTRICT 3 REPORT – Hazel Wells

No report submitted

DISTRICT 5 REPORT – Richard Hawkes

As the 2023-2024 minor hockey season ends, it is with great pride that we reflect on the accomplishments and growth of our players, coaches, and volunteers. This season, we had the privilege of having 125 teams, ranging from U9 to U18C, and it is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire minor hockey community.

I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to:

- To all the Presidents in District 5 for their tireless efforts and leadership throughout the season.
- Our volunteers from all the associations. who have selflessly given their time and energy to ensure the success of our District.
- KV Minor Hockey and HNB Volunteers, for the great job they did on the neurodiverse program
- HNB Board of Directors, for their guidance and direction throughout the season.

Conclusion

As we close out the season, we are reminded of the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and community. I am proud to be part of a minor hockey community that values these principles and strives to provide a positive and supportive environment for all players.

Thank you again to everyone who has contributed to the success of our season. I look forward to another exciting year of minor hockey ahead!

Richard Hawkes
District 5 Director

DISTRICT 6 REPORT – Lee MacWilliams

The 2023-2024 season was a busy one in District 6.

District 6 was also able to host Hockey New Brunswick Neurodiverse hockey program again this year in Moncton. The program allowed for many neurodiverse children (ages 6 through 17 years of age) an opportunity to try this amazing game. Special thanks to David Melanson (Head Instructor) and volunteer Julie Doucette for their championing this Hockey New Brunswick program to help make this happen.

Coaches, Referees, and Goaltending clinics were carried out throughout all minor hockey associations in District 6 with strong participation at all of them.

Coaches Certifications and criminal record checks still seemed to be a challenge this year. This resulted in several coaches being removed from their rosters (some only temporarily). Coaches and parents need to remember that their certifications have to be in place by December 15th each year.

District 6 hosted several Provincial Championships this season, including the U15 AA (In Riverview), U15 A (in Petitcodiac), and the U15 B in Lewisville. A special thank-you to all the host committees as all three Provincial Tournaments were considered a great success.

Congratulations to all the Provincial Championship teams throughout the Province. District 6 had a few of our own (between AA and C) including:

- Petitcodiac-Salisbury Flyers U18 AA
- SEFHA/Dieppe Memramcook Pantheres Female U18 A
- Riverview Blues, U15 AA
- Sackville Sirens Female U15 A
- Dieppe Memramcook Aigles U18 C

A sincere thank you to the minor hockey club Presidents, executive directors, league Presidents, and Blair Kennedy for everyone's support in my first season. Your attendance and participation in our monthly District meetings this season were appreciated.

Special thanks to Nic Jansen, Maurice (Moe) Theriault, Luc Martin, and the staff at Hockey New Brunswick. I have appreciated your guidance all season.

Lee MacWilliams
District 6 Director

DISTRICT 7 REPORT – Kris Dupuis

District 7 is comprised of 4 Minor Hockey Associations – Shediac/Cap-Pele Minor Hockey, West Kent Female Hockey Association, Kent Sud Minor Hockey Association, and the Kent Centre Minor Hockey Association.

This season was successful for our District 7. Registration numbers increased across all associations, which shows steady growth in our area.

Some highlights included the re-opening of the Elsipogtog Arena. Our district hosted 2 provincial championship tournaments as well. We hosted the Female U13AA and Female U15AA provincial championships.

The challenges in our district mirror many districts:

- Lack of officials
- Lack of Goaltenders, and resources/education for potential goaltenders
- Lack of volunteers
- Parent behaviors
- Tryout procedure and team selections

I would like personally to thank HNB for their unwavering support throughout the season. As well as the support, tireless work of the volunteers from each of the minor hockey associations in our district. Without your work, there would be no success of season to speak of. Hockey is in a great situation, and I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of it.

Kris Dupuis
District 7 Director

DISTRICT 8 REPORT – Ian Donald

The 2023-24 hockey season in District 8 was marked by several notable developments.

Transition to North Shore Minor Hockey League:

For the first time, all U11 and above age categories transitioned to the North Shore Minor Hockey League. Initially, some associations expressed concerns, but as the season progressed, they fully embraced the change.

Teams benefited from double-header days and enjoyed playing against a wider variety of opponents beyond their own district.

Loss of Baie-Ste-Anne Minor Hockey Association:

Unfortunately, Baie-Ste-Anne minor hockey, a small association, ceased operations during the season. However, many of its players had already transitioned to other teams in previous years.

Despite this setback, overall District 8 remains healthy and sustainable.

Promising Success Stories:

The area hosted the Junior C Atlantic Championship, where the Sunny Corner Thunder reached the finals. Most of these players had developed their skills in District 8 associations.

The Miramichi Timberwolves are close to winning the Fred Page Cup, with their eyes set on the ultimate goal: the National Centennial Cup.

Additionally, the Miramichi Rivermen have been awarded a U15 AAA franchise for the upcoming season.

Excitement at the Grassroots Level:

These successes bring excitement back to the grassroots of the sport—the District Associations and Teams.

As the District 8 Director, I am committed to providing guidance and support to our teams for another two years.

It's inspiring to see the passion and dedication within District 8, and I look forward to the upcoming season! If anybody needs further details or have any other questions, feel free to ask, I'd love to have a hockey chat!

Ian Donald
District 8 Director

DISTRICT 9 REPORT – Francine Albert

The number of registrations increased by 4% to 642 players, including 102 girls.

The APMHA appointed a new technical director, Carl Devost. Also, for the first time, the Acadian Peninsula Association introduced a U15AA Female and an U18AA team, in addition to the usual mixed competitive teams (two U11A, one U11B, two U13A and two U15A).

The coach training courses took place on November 4. 41 new coaches were trained Coach 1: 16; Coach 2: 25.

The Acadian Peninsula minor hockey league kicked off on November 11 with five U11C teams, four U13C teams and four U15C teams.

The clubs again opted for U9 tiering.

The dual registration has enabled us to create a U9, U11 and U13 “travel team”. With the creation of these teams, interest in female hockey has grown, and more and more girls want to play female hockey.

In closing, I would like to thank the APMHA Board of Directors for their support. Thanks to the HNB staff and especially to Nic Jansen and Michelle Currie for their help. The team guide was much appreciated by our members.

Have a great summer and see you next season!

Francine Albert
District 9 Director

DISTRICT 10 & 11 REPORT – Éric Pelletier

The 2023-24 season went well for districts 10 and 11. The numbers of participants were up in both districts. All teams played in the North Shore league, where some finished the season at the top of the standings and some at the bottom. Teams from both districts, attended provincials, some earned their spot in the C categories and the competitive teams attended after being re-classified in February. No teams brought home a championship but did well.

The U-18 A team from Chaleur attended the provincials in Edmundston, but lost in the semi finals, to the host team. The respect in sports for parents, was much better this season. District 11 only had a few names, but after verification, were added to an older sibling's account. District 10 also had the same issue. Some coaches and volunteers did their coaches and respect in sports courses online and some attended in person. The registrars had to follow up, with HNB, to get the qualifications updated in the HCR, and only a few had to be removed. The CRC and VSC, sometimes take time to get done, but between the 2 districts, was completed at around 97%.

The U-9 divisions were divided in tier 1 and 2, and was better for all players involved. The U-18 C provincials were hosted by RNMHA and held in Dalhousie. The co presidents did an awesome job organizing this tournament and attended every game. The tournament ran smoothly, with no complaints and only 2 suspensions. Dieppe/Memramcook was victorious.

Finally, there is a motion being tabled at the AGM, by female, concerning double carding of players, between female only teams and co-ed teams. This motion might help teams in big centres, where there are female only leagues, and lots of players, but will definitely have a negative impact on smaller associations, where there are not enough players to support this motion. This will not help female hockey in smaller associations.

Eric Pelletier
District 10 and 11 Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT - Nic Jansen

As we celebrate another season for Hockey New Brunswick, I'd like to provide an overview of initiatives and programs from the 2023-2024 season:

The Para Hockey Cup was held December 3rd-9th in Quispamsis. The event included Para Hockey National team programs from Canada, USA, China and Czechia. In conjunction with the event, a number of Development initiatives were held, that included school visits, try para event, a coach clinic and a practice for local para players with the National Team Coaching Staff.

In May Hockey Canada announced that the 2024 National Women's Under-18 Championship will be held in Quispamsis from November 3rd-9th in Quispamsis, NB. The events includes Provincial teams from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, two teams from Ontario and Team Atlantic. This marks the first time that the event will be held in Atlantic Canada.

A new partnership was created with the University of New Brunswick law program. UNB created a Sport Law Clinic that supported Hockey New Brunswick with investigations and provided feedback and resources related to governance, constitutions and fiduciary responsibility. Students from the Sport Law Clinic investigated discrimination allegations as well as Code of Conduct complaints on behalf of Hockey New Brunswick.

Hockey New Brunswick ran Neurodiverse camps in Dieppe, Quispamsis, and Fredericton. The program was free of charge and open to all neurodiverse youth between the ages of 5 to 17, a total of 75 participants took part in the sessions that included 10 on-ice sessions.

This season, Hockey New Brunswick hosted seven Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion workshops with over 300 participants attending. The participants included players, coaches, officials, parents, and volunteers. The focus of the workshops was making our sport more inclusive, how we can accommodate the differences of people and ideas to promote diversity awareness.

Allison Forsyth delivered four Safe Sport presentations to HNB members. The sessions were delivered to coaches, players, Minor Hockey Associations, and parents. The presentations covered the different forms of maltreatment, how to minimize environmental and cultural risks, and the gaps every organization must be aware of that is not covered by policies or current training. Allison is one of the most recognized Safe Sport Leaders in Canada who is shifting sport culture for the better.

Hockey HB launched the Sport Culture Index with Sport Law to key community members to gather important information as part of Hockey NB's desire to foster a healthy culture and to proactively address any risks. The SCI was deployed to 94 individuals and achieved a response rate of 81.9%. The SCI is an AI-powered cultural data tool that measures 10 culture factors including accountability, clarity, impact, resilience, vision, belonging, empathy, learning, psychological safety, and values. Based on what we learned, we identified the following action items: 1. Improve Communication; 2. Enhance leadership & governance; 3. Enhance diversity & inclusion; 4. Continuous improvement.

Congratulations to the SEFHA Fury, NB East Beavers, Tri County Rivercats and Miramichi Timberwolves on winning Regional Championships this season.

Thanks again to all the outstanding volunteers throughout New Brunswick. It's a pleasure to work with a passionate and dedicated group of volunteers.

See you around the rink.

Nic Jansen
Executive Director